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G.O. No.

1844

Dated

[Despatch Abstract.]

[illegible] 1948 No.643 - Teaching of Hindustani [illegible] - points recorded.

TEACHING OF HINDUSTANI IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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*346 Q.-- SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state--

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for the teaching of Hindustani in elementary schools;

(b) if so, whether they propose to appoint separate Hindustani pundits or to give encouragement to existing teachers to acquire the necessary knowledge for teaching Hindustani; and

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage the Government servants to acquire a minimum knowledge in Hindustani?

THE HON.SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:--

"(a) No.

"(b) To begin with separate Hindustani Pandits may have to be appointed; but in the long run Government hope when the boys at present in the lower classes come up for training, it may not be necessary to have separate Hindustani Pandits.

"(c) The matter is under consideration".

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:-- "Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that English was taught in the elementary and higher elementary schools originally and if so what is the difficulty in introducing Hindustani in the place where English was taught?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:--

"For the same reason for which English has been abolished in the elementary schools".

Sri V.M.RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:-- "May I know in what script Hindustani is to be taught, whether in the Nagari script or in the Arabic script?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "This question is different from the original question, Sir. But still I can inform the Hon. Member that what is proposed is to teach both in the Devanagari and the Arabic scripts."

SRI M.S.PATTABHIRAMIAH:-- "Is it not a fact that the Central Government have notified that Hindustani will be made a compulsory subject for recruitment to the Central Services and will it not be desirable for us to put in Hindustani in the place of English so as to make the applicants from this Province equally efficient in competing for those examinations?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "Quite,so, Sir. That is why the Government are introducing Hindustani in the schools from the first form stage under the reorganization scheme. It is against all basic ideas of education to introduce a foreign language in the elementary school stage."

Sri K. BRAHMANDAM REDDI:-- "Are Government aware, Sir, that in the Draft Constitution of India, Article 99 says that the State language in the Parliament will be Hindi and if so, may I know what is the difference between Hindustani and Hindi? If Hindi is to be followed as a State language why not Hindi language be promoted in the State?

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- The Hon. Member understands as much as I do that Hindustani will be the language for the Centre. But for the Provinces it cannot be the language in which all our correspondence can be done. It must be the provincial languages".

Srimathi C. AMMANNA RAJA:-- "May I know, Sir, whether the Government consider Hindustani as a foreign language?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "It is foreign, Sir, in the sense that every child in this Province need not study Hindustani even in the elementary schools."

Sri K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:-- "I am afraid, Sir, my question has been misunderstood. Inasmuch as it is provided in the Constitution that the State language in Parliament is to be Hindi and not Hindustani how is it that Hindustani is to be taught. When the State language in Parliament is Hindi why not promote Hindi?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "It is clear, Sir, that even in the Constituent Assembly there are differences over this. Some people say that it must be Hindustani and some people under the leadership of Sri Purushotham Tandon say that it must be Hindustani and some people under the leadership of Sri Purushothamdas Tandon say that it should be Hindi. Some of them say that it must be in Devanagiri script and others say that it should be in the Arabic script also. There is a discussion about that and it must be concluded in that place."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:-- "May I know, Sir, whether the Government have introduced Hindustani in the Teachers' Training Schools and Colleges, and in the Basic Training Schools, and if not, will the Government consider the necessity of introducing Hindustani in those institutions?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "Yes, Sir The matter is under consideration. So far as higher grade training schools are concerned which cater to the needs of elementary schools it may not be necessary, but so far as secondary grade training schools are concerned it may be necessary and the matter is under consideration."

Sri ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:-- "Is not the Hon. Minister aware that after all the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi has been definite that only Hindustani and not Hindi should be the national language and also that he resigned his Presidentship of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan on the question whether Hindi or Hindustani should be the State language?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "That is quite possible, Sir. But the Constituent Assembly has to decide the matter. That was what I said."

Sri M.G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:-- "Since the State language is very probably to be Hindi, Sir, may I know why Hindi should not take the place of English in the schools?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "Yes, Sir This is the attempt that will be made in the reorganization of secondary education".

Sri M.G.NATESA CHETTIYAR:-- "May I know why we should not start the experiment early enough and introduce it even now?"

THE HON. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- Yes, Sir, this experiment will be started in the next school year."

Sri ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:-- "Are not the Government aware that in the All-India Radio news is being broadcast only in Hindustani and not in Hindi?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "That question may be addressed to the All-India Radio, Sir."

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN:-- "In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that there is difference of opinion among the Members of the Constituent Assembly, whether to have Hindustani or Hindi, may I request the Hon. Minister to issue instructions to the educational institutions in the Province to stop teaching of Hindustani till the Constituent Assembly comes to a definite decision whether to have Hindi or Hindustani?"

The HON. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "No, Sir, In view of the importance of Hindustani the Government must issue immediate orders so that our children may not suffer in future and the study of Hindustani must be taken up immediately."

SRI R.V.SWAMINATHAN:-- "If Hindustani is to be taught in our schools and should the Constituent Assembly decide to have Hindi what will be the fate of our children, Sir?"

The Hon. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "The boys will be quite happy and will be in a position of advantage."

SRI A. VEDIRATNAM PILLAI:-- "May I know, Sir, whether it is not necessary for those who are serving in the Central Government from our Province to have some knowledge of Hindustani, and if,so, whether the Government have made any arrangements for them to learn Hindustani?"

THE HON. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "Certainly, Sir. That is why we have started the study of Hindustani as early as the first form stage."

Sri M.S.PATTABHIRAMIAH:-- "Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state, if Hindustani is to be taught in two scripts-- in the Persian as well as the Devanagari scripts - whether it will not be desirable to commence teaching Hindustani alphabet in the elementary schools in our Province?"

The Hon. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "In this country all the educationalists have been agitating for a very long time that a language which is not familiar to the children should not be taught in the early stages in the elementary schools as it is not good for the development of the child itself. So, for that reason the Government tought that the proper age for teaching a language which the children do not know normally would be the first form stage. As that is the earliest stage at which it can be introduced, the Government have done so."

SRI D.V.RAMSWAMI:-- "May I know, Sir, if there is any considerable difference between Hindustani and Hindi as popularly known?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "The difference is primarily one of script, Sir. One is the Devanagari script and the other is the Arabic script.

Besides in the use of words also, in Hindi more sanskrit words are used and in Hindustani more Urdu words are used. Apart from that there is not much difference."

Sri V. RAGHAVAYYA:-- "In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that Hindi need not be taught from the elementary school stage, may I know, Sir, if it is in consonance with the policy of the Government of India?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "I believe so, Sir".

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:-- "May I know, what is the difficulty in introducing Hindustani in the Higher Elementary and Middle Schools, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "In the Middle Schools it is being introduced, Sir. As regards the Higher Elementary Schools, the matter is under consideration."

SRI V.I.MUNISWAMY PILLAI:-- "In their attempt to spread Hindustani, will the Government consider the desirability of according greater scope for the Harijans especially in the villages, to learn Hindustani?"

The HON. SRI T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "If the Hon. Member will suggest any concrete method by which it can be done, the Government will consider it."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:-- "My question was misunderstood, Sir, I wanted to know from the Government, Sir, whether they were aware that the All-India Radio had been announcing news only in Hindustani and not in Hindi, because the Central Governmen as also the Prime Minister of the Indian Dominion are definitely of the opinion that only Hindustani can be the lingua franca of India and not any other language."

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "Of course, Sir, With due respect to the Prime Minister of India, I must say that what will be binding on the country will be what the Constituent Assembly passes and so, Sir, we shall have to wait and see what the Constituent Assembly does in the matter. In this connexion I should like to clear a misunderstanding which has been created about my use of the word 'foreign' and about which objection was raised. When I said foreign language cannot be taught in the elementary schools, I did not for one moment, mean that Hindustani could be a foreign language to us. It is the national language. I meant it in the sense that a language which is not familiar to the child cannot be introduced in the lower stages."

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTI:-- "May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Members who speak of Hindi and Hindustani and who show such enthusiasm in Hindi, are themselves capable of putting questions and speaking in Hindustani or Hindi?"

Mr. SPEAKER:-- "This question should be addressed to the Hon. Members.

Sri K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:-- "In view of the fact that in the near future the national language is going to be Hindi or Hindustani as the case may be, may I know what steps the Government have taken to provide the necessary staff for the immediate future?"

The Hon. Sri T.S.AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:-- "The Government contemplate giving grants for people who will be producing Hindustani Pracharaks and Hindustani teachers so that a number of Hindustani Pandits may be produced."

E. & P. H. Deptt. (B).

Please see the Assembly proceedings extracted on pages 3-6 above. No further action is called for. The papers may be

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R E C O R D E D.

ABSTRACT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 - Teaching of Hindustani in elementary schools - Papers Recorded.

(True copy)

S. Jayaraman 17.6.

KRVD.29.1. OFFICE ASSISTANT, [illegible].R.O.

17/6/48